

*Office Memorandum* • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Chief, Materials Division

DATE: 8 September 1958

FROM : Chief, Nonferrous Metals and Minerals Branch

SUBJECT: Attribution of Research Reports

1. The analysts in M/NF were presented the question of whether the names of the principal authors should be printed in research reports.

2. While the concensus of the Branch is only mildly in favor of the principle of attribution, there were no dissentors.

3. My personal view favors strongly the principle of attribution. I believe that printing names of principal authors not only will serve to reflect credit for good work on the right people, but also will focus responsibility. Knowing that his name is to be affixed to his report, an analyst may prepare it more carefully. He even may be so proud that he would study principles of writing good reports or acquire other research skills and experience on his own time.

4. The only disadvantage to attribution that occurs to me is the possible breach of security. I assume, however, that this aspect already has been checked out.

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